

**Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**  
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health  
108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Olivia Hunter

DATE: November 11, 2005

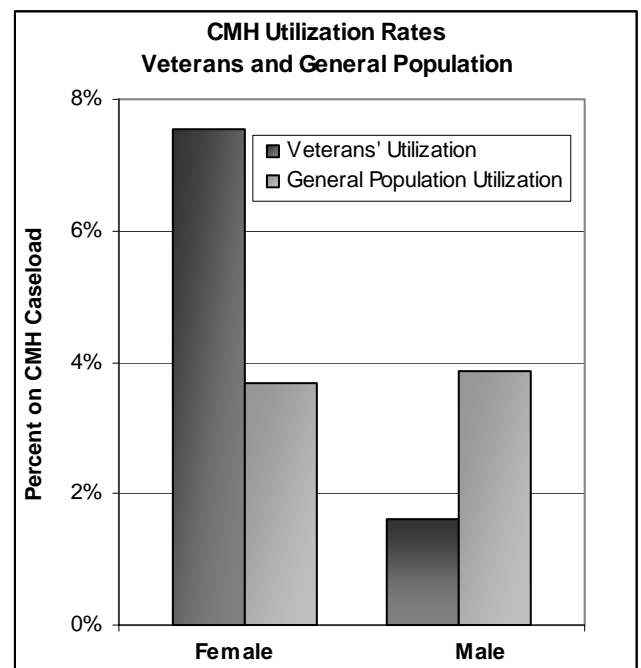
RE: Veterans' Clinical Characteristics

Veterans of military service are recognized as a population with the potential for an elevated need for mental health services. This Veterans Day PIP provides information about the clinical characteristics of Veterans being served by Vermont community mental health Adult Outpatient programs, CRT programs for adults with serious mental illness, Substance Abuse programs, and other adults who were served during FY2005 but not assigned to a treatment program. Because clinical characteristics of male and female clients tend to differ, all comparisons between veterans and other clients will be reported separately for men and women. This report relied exclusively on data provided to DMH by designated community agencies. Data regarding veteran's status was provided for more than 90% of all adults served statewide.

The attached graphs and tables provide information on the clinical diagnosis and problem assessment of 1,239 Veterans (7.1% of all clients served). These include 957 men and 282 women (11% of men and 3% of women served). Based on comparison to US Census numbers, Vermont community mental health programs served 2% of all Veterans residing in the state. This is about half the rate at which Vermont residents were served by community mental health overall (3.8%). Male veterans were less than half as likely as other adult men to be served, but female veterans were more than twice as likely as other adult women to be served.

Findings indicate that veterans were more likely than other clients to have a schizophrenia or affective disorder diagnosis. Substance abuse diagnoses, however, were more common among non-veterans.

Male veterans were more likely than other male clients to have problems with alcohol but less likely to have problems with drugs reported on their problem assessment. Female veterans were no different from other female clients in terms of reported alcohol or drug problems. Male veterans were less likely to have problems with the law indicated on their problem assessment, while female veterans were more likely to have an indication of trouble with the law compared to non-veterans of the same gender.



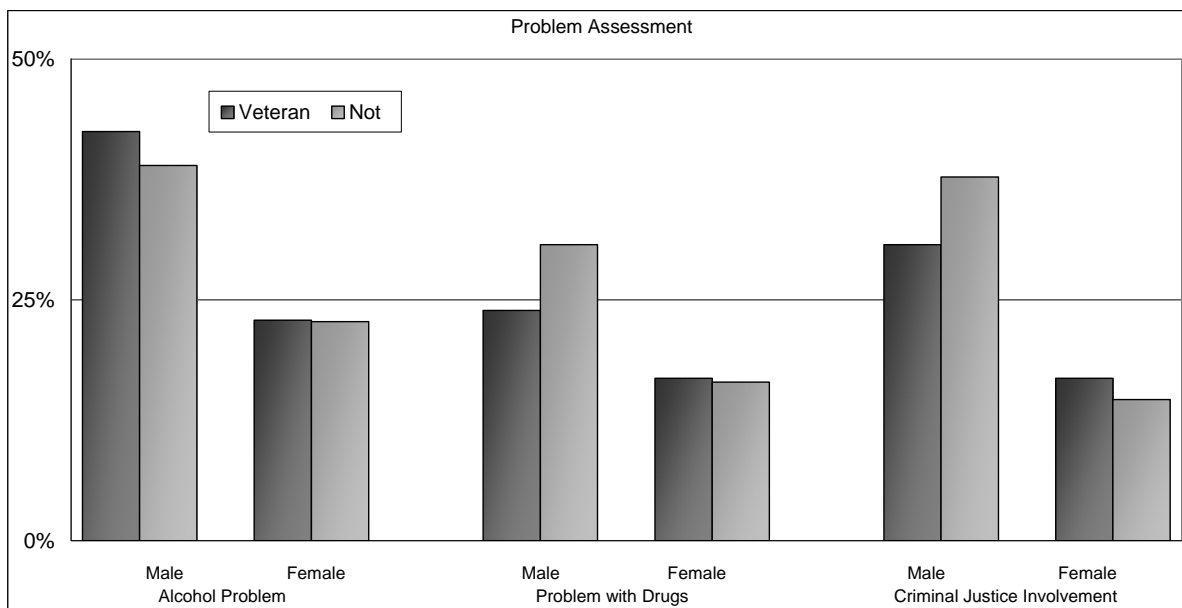
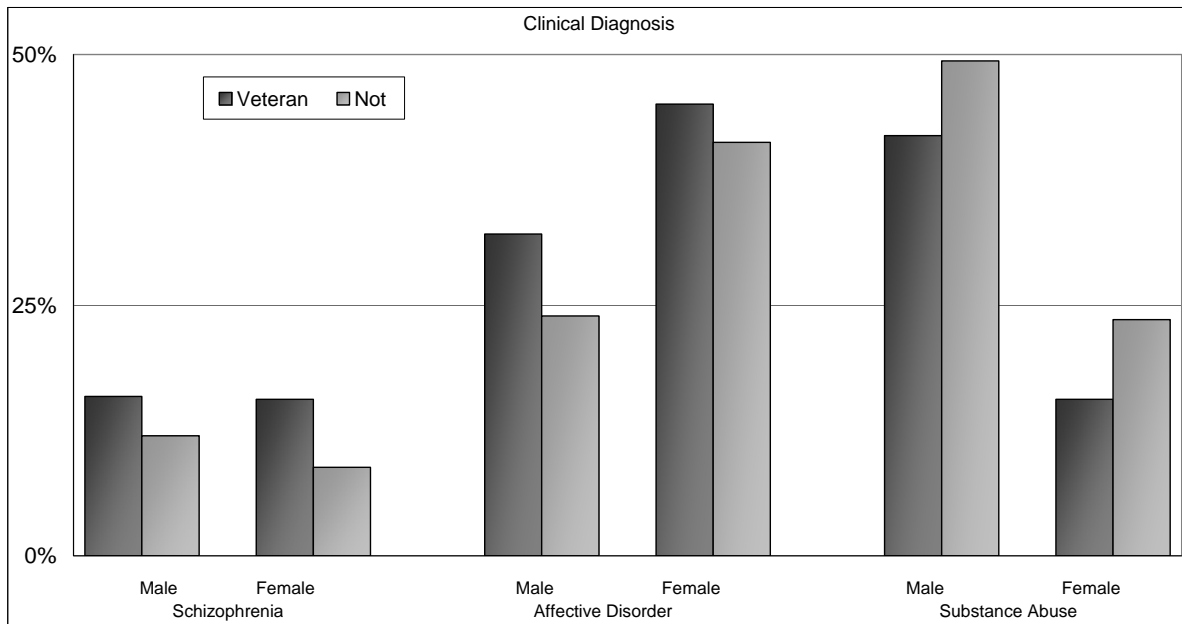
Female veterans were more likely than other female clients to be reported as victims of abuse/assault/rape, while male veterans were no different from other male clients in this area. Both male and female veterans were more likely than other clients of the same gender to be seen as suicidal or having medical/somatic problems.

Family problems were reported more often for male veterans than for other male clients, but reported less often for female veterans than for their counterparts who were not veterans. Interpersonal/social problems were reported about equally for men who were veterans and men who were not, but were reported more often for female veterans than for other female clients. Finally, both male and female veterans were more likely than their non-veteran counterparts to be reported as having problems coping with daily roles.

We look forward to your questions, your interpretations of these findings, and your suggestions for further analysis that focuses on relative access to care, practice patterns, and treatment outcomes for veterans of military services. Please contact us at 802.863.7249 or [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us).

## Clinical Characteristics of Veterans

### Vermont Community Health Centers, FY2005



		Schizophrenia				Affective Disorder				Substance Abuse			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not
Total Number		957	6,805	282	7,687	957	6,805	282	7,687	957	6,805	282	7,687
Total with Clinical Diagnosis	#	152	814	44	678	307	1,627	127	3,170	401	3,358	44	1,810
	%	16%	12%	16%	9%	32%	24%	45%	41%	42%	49%	16%	24%

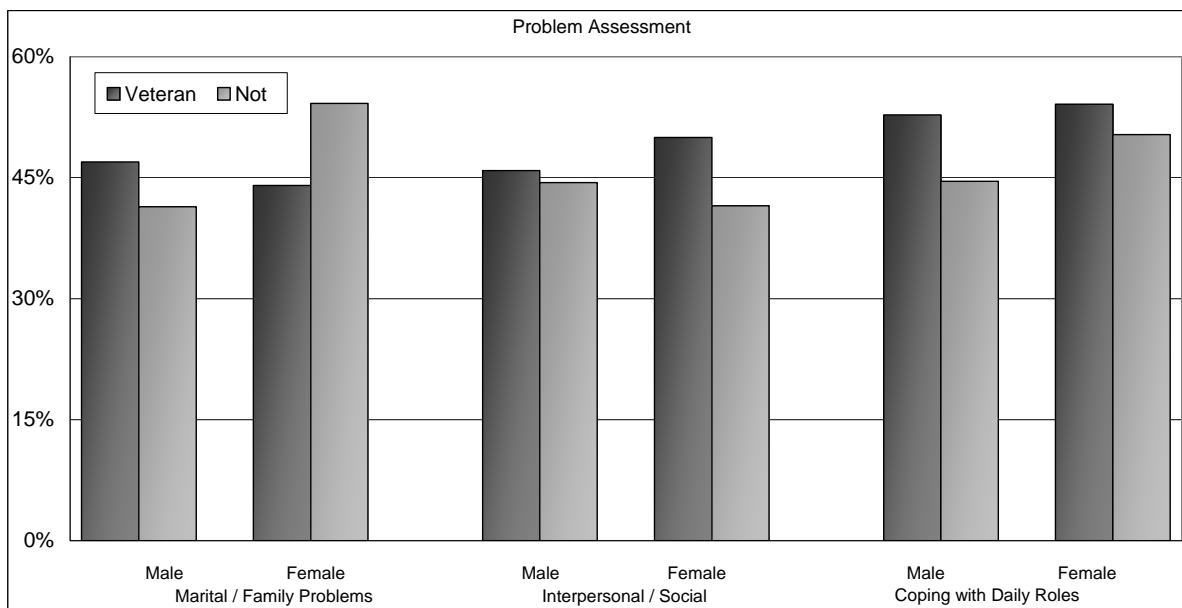
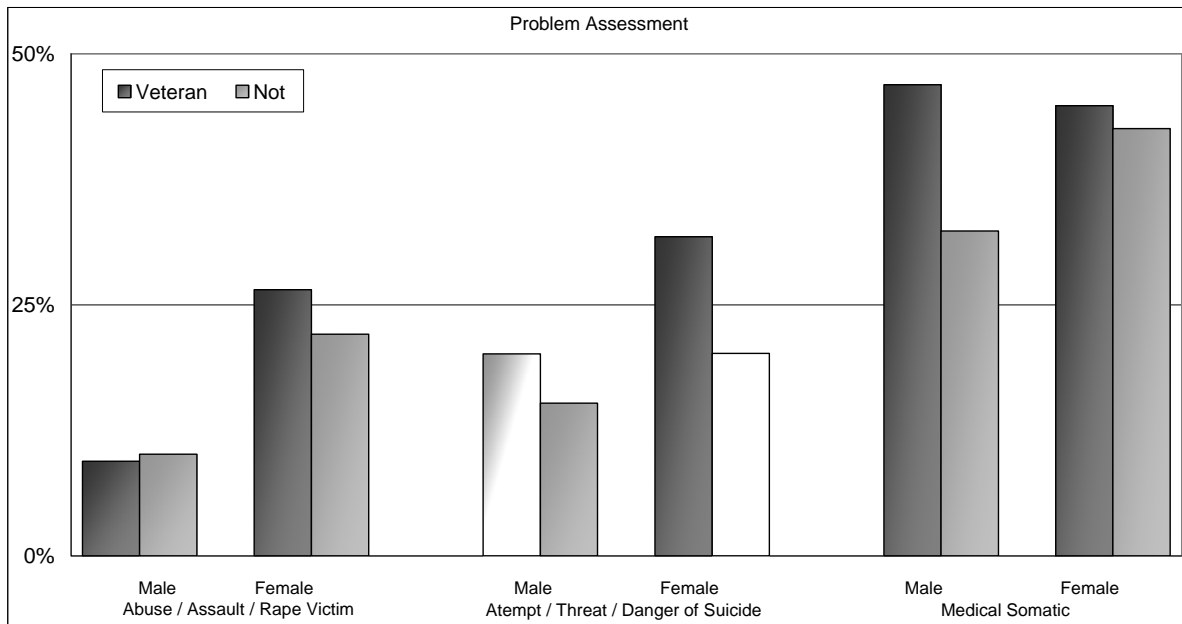
  

		Alcohol Problem				Problem with Drugs				Criminal Justice Involvement			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not
Total Number		685	5,711	83	6,568	707	5,924	83	6,461	726	6,030	83	6,476
Total with Problem Assessment	#	291	2,225	19	1,494	169	1,820	14	1,063	223	2,277	14	949
	%	42%	39%	23%	23%	24%	31%	17%	16%	31%	38%	17%	15%

This report is based on analysis of Monthly Service Report data provided to DMH by designated community agencies. These data files include up to four clinical diagnoses and thirteen problem assessments for each person.

# Clinical Characteristics of Veterans

## Vermont Community Health Centers, FY2005



		Abuse / Assault / Rape Victim				Attempt / Threat / Danger of Suicide				Medical Somatic			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not
Total Number		668	5,638	83	6,441	696	5,773	85	6,558	731	5,925	87	6,797
Total with Problem Assessment	#	63	571	22	1,422	140	878	27	1,322	343	1,917	39	2,891
	%	9%	10%	27%	22%	20%	15%	32%	20%	47%	32%	45%	43%

		Marital / Family Problems				Interpersonal / Social				Coping with Daily Roles			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not	Vet	Not
Total Number		722	5,979	84	6,828	706	5,939	82	6,564	718	5,945	85	6,661
Total with Problem Assessment	#	339	2,476	37	3,703	324	2,637	41	2,726	379	2,648	46	3,354
	%	47%	41%	44%	54%	46%	44%	50%	42%	53%	45%	54%	50%

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